

Baraboo Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2020

I. Call Meeting to Order and Note Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Ms. Caflisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Baraboo Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 101 South Blvd., Baraboo, WI. The meeting was noticed in conformance with Wisconsin State Statutes regarding open meetings.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Present: Caflisch, Johnson, Wastlund, Ayar, Bowers, Palm, Persche, Walczak, White

Absent: Kent, Mueller, Taylor

Other: Patrick Cannon

III. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for September 3, 2020 meeting

Palm (1); Johnson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

IV. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

White (1); Bowers (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

V. Presentation

Introduction of Beth Persche as a new BEDC member

VI. Action Items

None listed

VII. Information/Discussion Items

A. City updates and discussion regarding economic development

• Mayor Palm

- City Council/Plan Commission Updates
- The new City Administrator will start on December 14
- The Mayor is not seeking a 4th term as Mayor
- The City has approved their 2021 budget
- The Depot is now owned by the Sauk County Historical Society
- The new apartment complex has started construction
- The hotel project is still in development
- The City Attorney is leaving employment with the City
- The Great Sauk Trail is coming to Baraboo. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Oversight Committee
- The City created 2 new TID districts
- The City has applied for a grant with the EDA

• Baraboo Schools

- No report

• Banking Institutions

- No report

• Mr. Johnson

- The Ag industry is showing some rebounding in price
- Many farms received COVID-19 payments

- The area had the highest corn yield on record
- Ms. Caflisch
 - The Chamber has reduced staff due to losses in revenues
 - Chamber working on budget with less room tax revenues available
- Dr. Ayar
 - Campus is doing fine. Starting to feel as part of UW Platteville
 - They hope enrollment will increase next year.
- Ms. Persche
 - She is working with Power Up Baraboo regarding energy resources
 - They would like to have the City as 25% renewable energy by 2025
 - The PSC has an Energy Innovation grant program
 - Sauk County is looking at a solar group purchase in 2021
 - Re-New WI is holding a summit in January 2021
- Mr. Bowers
 - Discussed the Village's relationship with the Chamber regarding Room Tax
- Ms. Walczak
 - The pandemic has had a tremendous effect on the hospital
 - In lieu of a staff party, they have donated the funding to the food pantry
 - A new program has been set up to assist in obtaining a GED for incarcerated individuals
 - They are getting ready for the vaccine distribution process
 - SSM has invested more money into the facility
- Sauk County
 - No report
- Mr. White
 - SCDC's Housing Committee will meet again soon
 - Business Retention visits have all become virtual
 - Fall Forum was held virtually
 - The annual awards will be held in the spring.
- Manufacturing
 - No Report
- Ms. Wastlund
 - CDA has passed its 2021 budget
 - They have extended no payments for loans due to the pandemic

B. Continued discussion on housing options for possible future recommendation to City Council

They are waiting to hear on the grant application

C. Review and discuss 2020/2021 goals for BEDC

They will need to be discussed at a future meeting

D. Review and discuss BEDC tour schedule of local businesses

This will need to be scheduled

E. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:07 pm.

Persche (1); Johnson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None